

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A document management device having a document storage unit for storing a document, comprising:

a usage permission information request  
10 reception unit configured to receive a usage permission information request from a usage permission information requesting client, said usage permission information permitting usage of the document storage unit;

a usage permission information generation  
15 unit configured to generate the usage permission information in response to the received usage permission information request; and

a usage permission information transmission  
unit configured to transmit the usage permission  
20 information to the usage permission information requesting client.

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2. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 1, wherein

the usage permission information generation  
unit generates the usage permission information and  
5 identification information of the usage permission  
information, and holds the usage permission information.

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3. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information  
transmission unit transmits the identification  
15 information to the usage permission information  
requesting client as the usage permission information.

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4. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes  
identification information of the document storage unit  
25 and authority information of the usage permission

information.

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5. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes  
identification information of the document storage unit  
10 and effective period information of the usage  
permission information.

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6. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes  
identification information of the document storage unit  
20 and information of a maximum number of connections with  
the document management device.

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7. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes  
identification information of the document storage unit  
5 and information of a maximum number of operations of  
document storage in the document storage unit.

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8. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes  
identification information of the document storage unit  
15 and information of a storage capacity in the document  
storage unit.

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9. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes a  
plurality of items of identification information of the  
25 document storage units.

5           10. The document management device as  
            claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
            a usage request reception unit configured to  
            receive a usage request from a usage requesting client  
            for using the document storage unit; and  
10           a usage unit configured to use the document  
            storage unit according to the usage permission  
            information.

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            11. The document management device as  
            claimed in claim 10, wherein  
            the usage requesting client is different  
20           from the usage permission information requesting client.

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            12. The document management device as

claimed in claim 10, wherein

the usage request includes information on  
the document and information on the document storage  
unit.

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13. The document management device as  
10 claimed in claim 10, wherein

the usage unit stores the document in the  
document storage unit according to the usage permission  
information.

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14. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

20 a document identification information  
appending unit configured to append document  
identification information for identifying the stored  
document to the usage permission information, said  
document identification information being appended as  
25 an editable data.

5                   15. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 13, further comprising:  
                  a document identification information  
transmission unit configured to transmit document  
identification information for identifying the stored  
10 document to the usage requesting client.

15                   16. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 13, further comprising:  
                  a document usage permission information  
transmission unit configured to transmit information  
for permitting usage of the stored document to the  
20 usage requesting client.

25                   17. The document management device as

claimed in claim 10, wherein

the usage unit includes a determination unit that determines whether the document storage unit requested by the usage request is at a lower level than  
5 the document storage unit permitted for use by the usage permission information generated by the usage permission information generation unit.

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18. The document management device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a document list information request  
15 reception unit configured to receive a document list information request from a document list information requesting client for acquiring document list information of at least one document stored in the document storage unit; and

20 a document list information transmission unit configured to transmit the document list information to the document list information requesting client in response to the received document list information request.

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19. The document management device as  
5 claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a document content information request  
reception unit configured to receive a document content  
information request from a document content information  
requesting client for acquiring information of contents  
10 of the document stored in the document storage unit;  
and

a document content information transmission  
unit configured to transmit the document content  
information to the document content information  
15 requesting client in response to the received document  
content information request.

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20. The document management device as  
claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a connection permission information request  
reception unit configured to receive a connection  
25 permission information request from a connection

permission information requesting client for acquiring connection permission information that includes the usage permission information and permits connection with the document management device;

5                   a connection permission information generation unit configured to generate the connection permission information in response to the received connection permission information request; and

                  a connection permission information  
10 transmission unit configured to transmit the connection permission information to the connection permission information requesting client.

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21. The document management device as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:

                  an identification information request  
20 reception unit configured to receive an identification information request, made by the connection permission information requesting client, for acquiring identification information of the document storage unit, said identification information of the document storage  
25 unit including the connection permission information

and the usage permission information; and

an identification information transmission  
unit configured to transmit the identification  
information to the connection permission information  
5 requesting client that requests the identification  
information in response to the received identification  
information request.

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22. A method of a document management  
device having a document storage unit for storing a  
document, comprising the steps of:

15 receiving a usage permission information  
request from a usage permission information requesting  
client for acquiring usage permission information that  
permits usage of the document storage unit;

generating the usage permission information  
20 in response to the received usage permission  
information request; and

transmitting the usage permission  
information to the usage permission information  
requesting client.

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23. The method as claimed in claim 22,  
5 further comprising the steps of:  
receiving a usage request from a usage  
requesting client for using the document storage unit;  
and  
using the document storage unit according to  
10 the usage permission information.

15 24. The method as claimed in claim 23,  
wherein  
the usage requesting client is different  
from the usage permission information requesting client  
that receives the usage permission information  
20 transmitted in the step of transmitting the usage  
permission information.

25. A program executable by a computer for operating a document management device having a document storage unit for storing a document, comprising the steps of:

5           receiving a request from a client for acquiring usage permission information that permits usage of the document storage unit;

          generating the usage permission information in response to the received request; and

10           transmitting the usage permission information to the client.

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26. A storage medium storing a program executable by a computer for operating a document management device having a document storage unit for storing a document, comprising the steps of:

20           receiving a request from a client for acquiring usage permission information that permits usage of the document storage unit;

          generating the usage permission information in response to the received request; and

25           transmitting the usage permission

information to the client.